

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

**DR-CAFTA PRESERVES U.S. SOVEREIGNTY &  
RESPECTS U.S. IMMIGRATION LIMITS**

Dear Colleague:

We urge you to vote for the Dominican Republic-Central America Free Trade Agreement. This trade agreement opens access to 44 million new customers for American products and services, helps us win the textile war against China, and enhances U.S. national security by continuing our commitment to freedom, democracy and rule of law in the Central American region – a region in which America has fought hard and long to win against persistent and current efforts to turn back the clock toward communism and socialism

At the same time, this agreement preserves U.S. sovereignty and honors U.S. immigration policy.

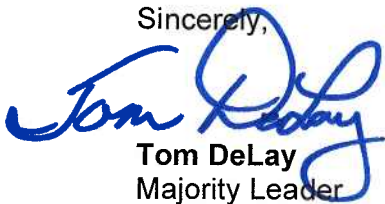
**CAFTA preserves U.S. sovereignty.** CAFTA does not undermine the sovereignty of the United States or alter the constitutional mandate that the U.S. Congress is the only body empowered to make or change U.S. laws. No federal or state laws are superceded in this agreement – other than the obvious tariff changes -- and no federal or state law must change even if America were to lose a future trade dispute. Federal small business set-aside laws are protected as well as “Buy America” provisions within America’s defense sector. State investment laws inconsistent with DR-CAFTA are also “grandfathered.”

**CAFTA also honors Congress’s sole authority to determine immigration policy and limits.** Unlike some past trade agreements, DR-CAFTA includes no provisions that require any change – implicit or explicit – in U.S. immigration laws or limits. To underscore the importance of secure borders, the agreement adds a legally binding side letter that states in no uncertain terms that “no provision of the trade agreement shall be construed to impose any obligation” on America regarding our immigration measures.

In fact, DR-CAFTA may well help stem the tide of illegal immigration from the region. Indeed, with 19,000 textile workers in the Dominican Republic and 9,000 textile workers in El Salvador who have recently lost their jobs to cheap China textiles – many of whom may seek work in the United States – it is critically important from an immigration standpoint that we partner up with Central America to create jobs and economic opportunities at home for these displaced workers.

As conservatives strongly committed to U.S. sovereignty, secure borders and democracy in our hemisphere, we urge you to support this important agreement.


Sincerely,



**Tom DeLay**  
Majority Leader



**Henry Hyde**  
Chairman, International  
Relations Committee



**Lamar Smith**  
Chairman, Courts,  
Internet, and Intellectual  
Property Subcommittee